

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:11

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015

Revamping of Child Labour Laws

Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of existing laws to curb and prevent the child labour from exploitation and the extent to which these laws have been effective;
- (b) whether the Government has revamped or proposes to review/revamp the present child labour laws to address the modern challenges in the society;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of raids/searches conducted, persons arrested for violations of child labour laws and also child labourers rescued during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the other effective measures taken by the Government for the complete eradication of child labour in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.11 RAISED BY SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN AND SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR FOR ANSWER ON 30.11.2015 REGARDING REVAMPING OF CHILD LABOUR LAWS.

(a): Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain occupations and processes and regulates the working conditions of children in employment where they are not prohibited. The Census 2011 figure shows a decline in the number of main workers in the age group of 5-14 years in the country to 43.53 lakh.

(b): A Bill to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in 2012. The Government has decided to move Official Amendments to the Amendment Bill.

(c): The Amendment Bill along with the Official Amendments, inter-alia, proposes complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years, linking the age of prohibition with the age under Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, and stricter punishment for the employers contravening the provisions of the Act.

(d): As per the information furnished by various States, the number of inspections and prosecutions under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 during the last three years, State-wise is given at Annexure-I. As per the data received from District National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Societies, number of children rescued/withdrawn from work, rehabilitated and mainstreamed under NCLP Scheme during the last three years and the current year is given at Annexure-II.

(e): Considering the nature of the problem of child labour, Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through specific scheme and universal elementary education supplemented with economic rehabilitation of their families by way of convergence with existing programs and schemes. Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme as a project based intervention under which children rescued/withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care etc. before mainstreaming into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA).